



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

May 1, 2017

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION UPDATES

Volunteer Openings. Currently there are openings on the following: (2) Conservation Commission, (2) Parks & Recreation Committee; (1) Board of Assessor's Member. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

MEETINGS

Department Head Meeting. We had a department head meeting this morning to run through the Warrant for ATM. A summary of department updates will be distributed to the Board.

MPO Meeting. DPW Superintendent, Steve Nims, and I attended the last MPO meeting where the new TIP was discussed and released. Despite strong advocacy on the Town's behalf, the MPO voted to support a current TIP program where Ashburnham's 101 project is not slated until Fiscal Year 2020. The MPO has released this TIP program for public comment for the next few weeks. I will write a letter further advocating for the 101 project to be moved up to FY19. In addition, it might be helpful if the Select Board wrote a letter to support a closer project date as well.

The current proposed TIP program leaves more money on the table, and the MPO is requesting additional projects for consideration. We will be submitting the remainder of the 101 project that was not completed last round, with an estimated project cost of \$100k for consideration.

MassBuys Expo. I had the opportunity to attend the MassBuys Expo last week in Foxborough. I was able to speak with a few vendors and collect additional information. In addition, I was able to attend the early morning session where various State Secretaries spoke about current grant opportunities for municipalities.

Rail Trail. On Friday, I had the opportunity to tour the Town's Rail Trail with Chris Picone, Rosemarie Meissner, Bill Johnson, and Cecilia Snow, and Stuart Beckley (Easthampton's former Planner). Once the Rail Trail group has an opportunity to meet, we will discuss which section we will work to focus on over the next year.

PERSONNEL

James Cleveland. James Cleveland will come on board as Ashburnham's next Fire Chief around June 19th. He will work alongside Interim Fire Chief Jack Parow for about two weeks. We are very excited to welcome Fire Chief Cleveland to our team! A contract has been successfully negotiated, and the Select Board has the contract before them this evening for ratification.

Fire Union CBA Agreement. At the last Select Board meeting, the Board signed the renewal Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fire Union for July 1 2017 to June 30 2020.

COA Director. In accordance with our By-laws, we have posted this department head position in the newspaper, on the Massachusetts COA website, and on the Town's website. Applications are due no later than May 5, 2017.

PROJECTS

Community Compact Cabinet Grants. The Lieutenant Governor will be at Town Hall on Thursday around 3pm to sign the Community Compact Cabinet agreement with the Town.

Community Engagement. We held our first Community Engagement Meeting at the Library last week. We had 13 people in attendance, representing: the Library, the Ash Economic Development Commission, Police/Fire Dept, Lions Club, Parks & Rec., COA, People's Church and Great Gardner Chamber of Commerce .

Mr. Mikes. Mr. Mikes owner's have pulled all applicable permits. They are scheduled to begin demolition today. They will erect a trailer on the property in order to open the gas station for business, with an estimated opening date within the next week or so pending permit approval.

On-Going Projects—*No update at this time*

- ADA Grant
- Cable Contract
- DLTA Grant
- Green Communities Grant
- Health Insurance
- Meissner Property
- MOU Gardner
- Parking Main Street-Signage
- Route 101
- Sherbert Road
- Visit of Liquor Establishments in Town
- Watatic Dam
- Website Revamp